

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in a sincere attempt to place the case in immediate condition for allowance.

The examination of claims 1 to 18 and 29 to 35 and the withdrawal of claims 19 to 28 is acknowledged. Applicants also appreciate the indication that claims 6, 7, 9, 13, 17, and 35 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge also that (1) an oral restriction and election-of-species requirement had been made, (2) applicants replied thereto both orally and in writing (see the paper filed March 18, 2003), (3) claims 1 to 18 and 29 to 35 have been examined on the merits, and (4) the requirement is now made final.

By the present amendment, the non-elected claims have been canceled and revisions have been made in the remaining claims to contain features of the claims indicated allowable. Applicants will rely upon the protections afforded by 35 USC 121 with respect to any divisional application that may be filed. The claims before the Examiner are claims 1 to 4, 7, 9 to 12, 16 to 18, and 29 to 35.

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The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of applicants' priority documents and for listing references provided in an Information disclosure Statement.

The detailed explanations provided by the Examiner with respect to the art rejections are noted with appreciation. Those rejections are moot, however, in view of the instant amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that the case is in immediate condition for allowance.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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